

## Message Text

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41

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

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O 161631Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. IF ASKED YOU SHOULD REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S  
DEPARTURE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

Q: WHY HAS THE AMBASSADOR LEFT COTONOU?

A: THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ASKED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON  
FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Q: DOES THIS IMPLY THAT RELATIONS WITH BENIN ARE NOT GOOD?

A: RELATIONS WITH BENIN HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE LACK OF  
ANY CONCRETE PROGRESS TOWARD COMPENSATION FOR TWO AMERICAN  
FIRMS WHOSE ASSETS WERE NATIONALIZED 14 MONTHS AGO. THIS  
DELAY HAS LED TO A REVIEW OF US AID TO BENIN. THIS REVIEW  
IS STILL UNDERWAY.

Q: WHAT AMERICAN COMPANIES?

A: TEXACO AND MOBIL.

Q: HOW LONG WILL THE AMBASSADOR BE GONE ON CONSULTATION?

A: WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME.

2. WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC ARGUMENT  
WITH GPRB. THUS U.S. SPOKESMEN SHOULD NOT INITIATE ANY  
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DISCUSSION OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE

WITH JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING WASHINGTON POST REPORTER  
KAREN DE YOUNG NOW IN COTONOU) BUT SHOULD CORRECT ANY FALSE  
IMPRESSIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1976STATE037649  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TWMSMITH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**To:** COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006